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FACT SHEET

Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta, established in 1919 in Buffalo, New York, USA, has nearly 33,000 members belonging to more than 1,200 clubs in 67 countries and geographic areas. The **Zonta International Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of Zonta International, raises and oversees funds to support and promote Zonta's global service and advocacy programs.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Zonta has Consultative Status with the: United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF); United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); International Labour Organization (ILO); and Council of Europe. Zonta maintains operational relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and maintains representatives at United Nations sites in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna.

SERVICE PROJECTS

International Service Projects are adopted by delegates to Zonta's biennial Conventions. Past funding through the Foundation International Service Fund has helped UNIFEM improve the health, educational and economic status of women in Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Central America, Chile, Comoros Islands, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, and Zimbabwe. Our support for UNICEF campaigns has helped to reduce Female Genital Mutilation in Burkina Faso and Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Nepal and Afghanistan. Support for the STAR (Strategies, Training, Advocacy, Resources) Network of World Learning, has helped develop efforts to prevent the trafficking of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and support for the Afghan Institute of Learning provided educational opportunities and access to healthcare for women and girls. During the **2008-2010 Biennium**, Zonta will provide support the following projects: UNICEF *Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda*, UNIFEM *Safe Cities for Women Project in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and San Salvador, El Salvador* and UNFPA *Reduction of Obstetric Fistula in Liberia within the context of Maternal and Newborn Health*.

Education, Leadership and Youth Development. The *Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards* for doctoral study in aerospace-related sciences and engineering, established in 1938 to honor the famed pilot and Zontian, have awarded US\$7 million for 1,227 fellowships to women worldwide. The *Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship* program enables young women to pursue university-level studies in business management. The *Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program* is designed to encourage more young women to engage in public service. Z Clubs for high school students and Golden Z Clubs for college and university students encourage leadership skills development, career exploration and service.

Zonta International Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) provides grants to UN agencies or recognized NGOs for projects that seek to change personal and/or political knowledge, attitudes and behavior contributing to gender-based violence. During the **2008-2010 Biennium**, Zonta will provide support projects in Cambodia, Egypt and Syria.

Local Zonta Club Projects are chosen by each Zonta Club to promote the status of women, reflect United Nations emphases and serve the needs of the local community.